

Stream Line

City of Indianapolis / Department of Public Works / Indianapolis Clean Stream Team

Spring 2007 | Issue 12

Inside This Issue

- 2 From The Director
- 2 First Six-Month Report Available
- 2 Protect Yourself from Overflows
- 2 City Hosts Green Roof Symposium
- 3 How-to Guide: Downspout Disconnection
- 4 Sewage Overflow Projects

Statement Of Purpose

The Indianapolis Clean Stream Team is overseeing many projects to prevent raw sewage overflows into our waterways, eliminate failing septic systems, and improve flood control and drainage. Stream Line is published quarterly to keep you informed about the city's progress in restoring the health of our streams and improving the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

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**SewerOverflow
Hotline:
327-1643**

DO-IT-YOURSELF SPRING PROJECT CAN IMPROVE LOCAL WATERWAYS

City educating homeowners on the need for a "Correct Connect"



Are the downspouts from your roof connected to the city sewer? What about the sump pump keeping water out of your basement? If your home has an incorrect connection, you could be contributing to raw sewage overflows.

Downspouts or sump pumps connected to the sewer system let in rainwater that takes up space needed to carry sewage to our treatment plants. During wet weather, these incorrect connections have been linked to sewage backups into basements and increased raw sewage overflows into our rivers and streams.

As part of Mayor Bart Peterson's Clean Streams-Healthy Neighborhoods program, the city is launching "Correct Connect," a program to educate residents on how to identify and correct any illegal or incorrect sewer connections.

"While the city will spend up to \$2 billion over the next 20 years to make improvements to our sewer system, we are relying on property owners' help," said Tim Method, DPW Environmental Policy and Compliance Coordinator. "Many incorrect sewer connections increase raw sewage overflows and require costly new sewers to be built."

The city conducted a preliminary survey of 20,000 homes in Lawrence and Warren townships on the far Eastside, where sewer backups are a recurring problem. The survey identified approximately 600 homes with potentially illegal downspout connections. The Department of Public Works will send notices to property owners, who will be required to come into compliance with city ordinances prohibiting clear water connections to sanitary sewers. Enforcement and education efforts will continue in targeted areas throughout the county.

In most cases, the supplies needed to disconnect your downspouts and sump pumps can be found at your local home improvement store. For a list of supplies needed and information about how to disconnect your downspout, see Page 3.

See "How-to Guide: Downspout Disconnection," Page 3

MARS HILL TO RECEIVE LONG-AWAITED FLOOD RELIEF

The Mars Hill neighborhood and parts of southern Wayne Township soon will have relief from flooding and standing water after rainfall.

"For several decades, wet weather has caused street, yard and basement flooding in this area," Deputy Mayor Steve Campbell said at a March 27 project groundbreaking. "This is more

See "Mars Hill," Page 3



City officials joined community members on March 27 to break ground on the Mars Hill drainage improvement project. (From left: DPW Deputy Director Carlton Ray, Elizabeth McMillan, Southern Wayne Neighborhood Organization, Deputy Mayor Steve Campbell, City-County Councillor Dane Mahern, Joanne Hamilton, Southern Wayne Neighborhood Organization, and City-County Councillor Bob Cockrum).

Find us on the Web at: www.indycleanstreams.org

From the Director...

Kumar Menon
Director of Public Works



Construction will be underway this year for 14 septic tank elimination projects that, when completed, will bring sewer service to 3,425 homes.

This work is vitally important to the health of Indianapolis. Our progress in eliminating septic systems throughout Marion County will help restore neighborhood streams, protect drinking water and make backyards safer for kids to play.

DPW targets neighborhoods for sewer service because of septic system failure, stream impairment, the presence of residential drinking water wells and other factors.

Under our Septic Tank Elimination Program (STEP), construction projects that are or will be underway this year include:

- Devon Corridor, a four-phase project that will bring sewer service to 740 homes on the northeast side. The septic failure rate was estimated at 40-60 percent in the most recent health department survey of this area, where many homes get their drinking water from private wells.
- Bangor/Delaware's first phase, Forest Park/Southport, is underway on the south side and is expected to be complete in 2008. The septic failure rate in this area is between 30 and 40 percent.
- The first portion of the 1,500-home Southeastern Corridor Phase 1 project is expected to finish construction this summer, bringing sewers to 71 homes. The Southeastern Corridor Phase 1 project will bring a new main sewer artery to serve the city's southeast side.
- Post/Rawles, expected to bid in May, will bring sewer service to 188 properties. All the homes in this eastside neighborhood obtain drinking water from private wells.
- 10th & Mitthoefer, expected to bid in June, will provide sewers to 272 properties on the far eastside. This neighborhood has 30-40 percent septic failure rates and private wells.

For more information on the STEP program, visit our Web site at www.indycleanstreams.org and click on the STEP logo.

BRIEFS

First Six-Month Report Available

The city has submitted its first required six-month status report on sewer overflow reductions to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The report states that all required milestones have been met, including full operation of the Lower Pogues Run improvements in December 2006. A copy of the report is available on-line at www.indycleanstreams.org. Click on the "Documents" tab to find the report.

Protect Yourself from Overflows

With warmer temperatures and rainy weather comes the need to protect yourself from sewer overflows. The Department of Public Works encourages you to avoid contact with urban streams, especially during wet weather and three days after rainfall or snowmelt. Always wash your hands after contacting urban streams, especially before eating, drinking or preparing food. Bring a waterless hand sanitizer to outings near urban streams. Call the Sewer Overflow Hotline at 327-1643 or register to receive raw sewage overflow e-mail alerts year-round at www.indycleanstreams.org.



**PROTECT YOURSELF FROM
OVERFLOWS**
CALL THE SEWER OVERFLOW HOTLINE



327-1643
www.indy.gov.org/dpw

City Hosts Green Roof Symposium

The city hosted a green roof symposium on March 29 for architects, urban planners, developers, building owners/managers and interested citizens. The symposium provided an opportunity to learn about the design and implementation of green roofs, which are intentionally vegetated rooftops. Green roofs can help control stormwater runoff, reduce urban heat islands, insulate a building and provide habitat for birds and other small animals. The symposium also hosted discussions about how to increase the use of green roofs in Indianapolis as the city works to increase the sustainability of building and development practices. For more information, contact Tim Method at tmethod@indy.gov.org.

HOW-TO GUIDE: DOWNSPOUT DISCONNECTION

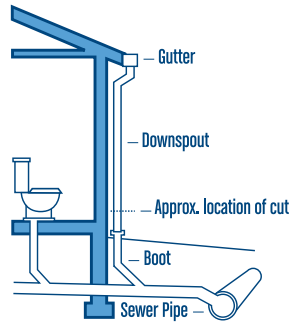


FIGURE 1. IMPROPER INSTALLATION

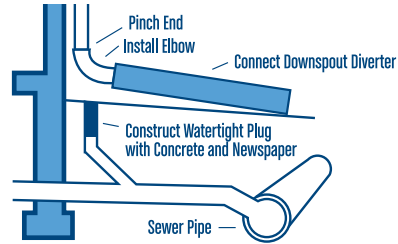


FIGURE 2. PROPER INSTALLATION

WHAT WILL I NEED?

- hacksaw
- hammer and chisel
- screwdriver (or small hand drill)
- tape measure
- safety goggles
- work gloves
- concrete (or mortar) mix
- bucket/tray and trowel for the concrete or mortar
- water
- newspaper
- extension piece of downspout
- downspout elbow
- appropriate downspout diverter (splash block, plastic tube, swivel tray, roll-out pouch)
- clips and screws, if necessary
- 4 or 6 inch rubber plug

STEP 1: Cut downspout

STEP 2: Seal hole to sewer pipe

STEP 3: Attach elbow to downspout and add downspout diverter

For an instructional video, how-to materials, and assistance from city staff and partner organizations, visit www.indycleanstreams.org.

Mars Hill (continued from Page 1)

than an investment into our infrastructure; it is an investment into improving the quality of life in this neighborhood.”

In a 2001 community survey conducted by the Department of Public Works (DPW), 72 percent of respondents reported their streets had standing water for more than six hours after rainfall. Thirty-nine percent reported the standing water was greater than one foot.

Construction will take place in two phases. The \$4.3 million Phase I projects began in March and are expected to be completed by December. During this phase:

- Stormwater connections to the combined sewer will be sealed off and stormwater will be redirected to State Ditch;
- A new drainage system will be constructed;
- Streets within the project area will be resurfaced to better convey stormwater run-off; and
- Underground stormwater quality treatment units will be installed, which will improve water quality before it is discharged into State Ditch.

Phase II, with estimated construction costs of \$1.2 million, has yet to be bid but is expected to be completed in spring 2008. Crews will install a new stormwater drainage system and construct street drains and storm sewer connections from Gimber Street east to Tibbs Avenue. Stormwater connections to the sanitary sewers also will be closed off and redirected.

In 2004, DPW completed work to repair an eroding embankment along State Ditch.

The Mars Hill/southern Wayne Township drainage improvement project is financed by the city’s stormwater utility fund, which received a boost from an October 2005 rate increase. This increase, approved with the bipartisan support of City-County Council, is funding \$35 million of drainage and flood control projects in Marion County through 2008.

VISIT THE DPW AIR, LAND AND WATER PAVILION AT THE 2007 EARTH DAY INDIANA FESTIVAL!

Learn and play with fun, interactive activities that all ages will enjoy. From recycled art to water jeopardy, you’ll learn how you can help improve Indianapolis’ air, land and water – while having a blast!



2007 Earth Day Indiana Festival

April 28, 2007

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

American Legion Mall

UNDER CONSTRUCTION: SEWAGE OVERFLOW REDUCTION PROJECTS GET UNDERWAY

DPW will begin construction this year on several projects to reduce raw sewage overflows and improve our streams.

The city has authorized construction to begin on two sewer separation projects. One will eliminate sewer overflows to White River at Thompson Road and the other will end overflows to Lick Creek along Interstate 465 on the city's southside.

The city also will improve water quality on Fall Creek by removing an unnecessary dam at 21st Street and Martin Luther King Drive. The dam was built in the early 1900s to collect cooling water for a power station, but it is no longer needed.

The city is removing the dam because it slows down the creek's flow and causes dissolved oxygen levels to drop upstream, harming fish and other aquatic life.

Meanwhile, design work has begun on the Interplant Connect, a 6.5-mile underground sewer that will connect the city's two treatment plants. A second public meeting will be held this summer to review the final route for the new sewer pipeline.

Work also is underway at the city's two treatment plants to ready them to handle more wet-weather flows. New gravity belt thickeners will be installed at Belmont to process sewage solids more efficiently. Site work also will begin on new wet-weather treatment facilities at Belmont.



Workers at the Southport treatment plant captured this photo recently of a Great Blue Heron having lunch at a large pond on the southside of the facility. As many as 18 herons have been seen feeding and resting at the pond at one time.

Design work will continue on the White River-Fall Creek tunnel, Riviera Club lift station and storage tank improvements, and on other treatment plant improvement projects.

By the end of 2006, the city had already reduced or relocated raw sewage overflows by an estimated 1.15 billion gallons in a typical year. For more information on these projects, visit www.indycleanstreams.org and click on the "Projects" tab.



*Visit the Earth Day Indiana Festival,
April 28, American Legion Mall*

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INDIANAPOLIS
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